

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Withdrawn) A method for preparing a stable iron nitrosylated hemoglobin which is converted to S-nitrosylated hemoglobin in the body, comprising the step of reacting deoxygenated hemoglobin and inorganic nitrite at mole ratios of nitrite to deoxygenated hemoglobin ranging from 1: 10 to 1: 1000 to form iron nitrosyl hemoglobin.
2. (Withdrawn) A method of blood product transfusion into a human patient in need of blood product transfusion, comprising the steps of co-incubating inorganic nitrite and blood substitute or red blood cells, comprising deoxygenated hemoglobin, at an initial mole ratio of nitrite to deoxygenated hemoglobin ranging from 1:10 to 1:1000 to form blood substitute or red blood cells product, containing iron nitrosyl hemoglobin, and transfusing the product containing iron nitrosyl hemoglobin into the patient.
3. (Currently Amended) A method of blood product transfusion into a human patient in need of a blood product transfusion, comprising the steps of co-administering a deoxygenated hemoglobin containing blood substitute and inorganic nitrite into the patient via infusion, wherein the inorganic nitrite is infused at a rate of 0.01 to 10 micromoles per minute, and the deoxygenated hemoglobin containing blood substitute is infused at a rate of 1 to 1000 cubic centimeters per hour.
4. (Withdrawn) A method of providing composition for transfusion for use at a later time, comprising storing composition comprising blood, blood substitute, red blood cells, blood hemoglobin or combination of two or more thereof in admixture with nitric oxide or after inorganic nitrite pretreatment, to preserve function and any red blood cells.
5. (Withdrawn) Stored blood, stored blood substitute, stored red blood cells, stored blood hemoglobin or combination of two or more thereof in admixture with nitric oxide or after inorganic nitrite pretreatment, for use at a later time.

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6. (Withdrawn) A method of treating a patient in need of nitric oxide therapy, comprising administering to the patient red blood cells or blood hemoglobin based therapeutic obtained by incubating red blood cells or blood hemoglobin, comprising deoxygenated hemoglobin, with inorganic nitrite, the mole ratio of nitrite to deoxygenated hemoglobin ranging from 1:10 to 1:1000 whereby the therapeutic contains iron nitrosyl hemoglobin.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3, wherein said patient is a patient who:

- a) has lost or is losing blood;
- b) is in need of removal of waste products of the body; or
- c) is in need of removal of a toxic substance; or
- d) ~~is in need of hemoglobin to treat a disease of impairment of nitric oxide or oxygen.~~

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3[17], wherein said patient is a patient in need of hemoglobin to treat wherein said disease of impairment of nitric oxide or oxygen is angina or stroke.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3, wherein said inorganic nitrite is sodium nitrite or potassium nitrite.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3, wherein said inorganic nitrite is in the form of an aqueous solution.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, wherein said aqueous solution is saline or phosphate buffered saline.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, wherein said aqueous solution comprises inorganic nitrite at 1 μ M to 1 mM.